THE

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at **73, Basinghall Street**, London, E.C. — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London**;" Code, **5th Edition A.B.C.**; telephone number, **12807 Central.** A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 547.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room at the above address, the latest additions to which are the following:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
Cloth, stated to be of Austrian make, sold at Monastir ...	18th Mar., 1909	510
Court Plaster (German) and Paper (Dutch), both bearing British Royal Arms, sold in Spain	25th Feb., „	371
Woollen Blanket required by Egyptian Prisons Department	„ „ „	358
Standard Fair Average Quality Western Australian Wheat of 1908-9	„ „ „	389
"Vegetable" Asbestos produced in Chungking	24th Dec., 1908	620
Silk from Wild Cocoons in Manchuria	17th „ „	574
"Machetes" sold in Panama	„ „ „	546
Cardigan Jackets and "Shal" sold at Diarbekir	10th „ „	494
Rice and Cotton from Bolivia	12th Nov. „	333
Cotton Goods sold in Turkey	29th Oct. „	204
Bean Oil from Japan	22nd „ „	184
Filasse produced from Ramie fibre	15th „ „	129
Copper Ore from Trebizond	„ „ „	128
Natal grown Maize	„ „ „	130

*** Particulars are given on p. 546 respecting the Register of British firms who may desire to receive **Confidential Information** relative to their respective trades.

Trade Enquiry Offices have been established at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Dominion of Canada and Queensland. Statements of the objects and work of these offices, and of other Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices, will be found on pp. 547-8.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

Girder Bridges. The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway are prepared to receive, up to noon on the 30th March, tenders for the supply of girder bridges. Tenders must be made on forms, copies of which, with specification, can be obtained at the offices of the

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Company, Gloucester House, 2, 3 and 4, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., on payment of 21*s.* each (which will not be returned). The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Steel Sleepers, Structural Steelwork, Metals.

The Board of Directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, Ltd., are prepared to receive tenders for:—(1) 40,000 transverse steel sleepers and keys. (2) 1,516 tons (approximate) of structural steelwork, &c. (3) Metals (miscellaneous), as per specifications which may be seen at the offices of the Company, 91, York Street, Westminster, S.W. The charge for each specification is one guinea which will not be returned. Tenders must be sent in addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for sleepers and keys," or as the case may be, not later than noon on the 30th March, 1909. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Steel Fencing, Cranes, &c.

The East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of:—(1) Steel palisade fencing; (2) 30-tons steam breakdown cranes and match trucks, in accordance with specifications to be seen at the Company's Offices, 29 and 30, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C. Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Fencing," or as the case may be, for No. 1, not later than noon on the 24th March, and for No. 2, not later than noon on the 31st March. The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

Reservoir and Irrigation Works.

"Indian Engineering" (Calcutta) of 13th February states that the question of devising suitable irrigation facilities for the protection of the areas in the Guntur district subject to drought has for some years past been engaging the attention of the Madras Government. The most important scheme proposed involves the construction of a reservoir on the Gundlakamma river close to the village of Tangirala, at a point where the river enters the Kistna district from Kurnool. The project as now worked out provides for the formation of a reservoir with a capacity of 12,100 million cubic feet. The dam is to be of masonry, with a maximum height of 120 feet. The length of the dam will be 4,524 feet from flank to flank, and of this length 1,250 feet on the right flank will be utilised as a surplus. In order to deal effectively with the surplus, which it is estimated will be considerable, 16 sluices are to be provided in the body of the dam. A subsidiary dam is also to be constructed.

The entire cost of the project is estimated at 67 lakhs of rupees (about 447,000*l.*).

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA – *continued.*

Bridge Construction.

According to the "Pioneer Mail" (Allahabad) of 26th February, the provision of a better and larger bridge over the Hooghli at Howrah is now under consideration by the Port Commissioners, and a plan has been submitted by a local firm of engineers for a floating bridge 100 feet in width, including roadway and footpaths, with a central span of 200 feet wide equipped to open and close very rapidly, and several large openings for boat and small steamer traffic.

Railway Plant.

It appears from the same issue of the "Pioneer Mail" that the construction of the Bombay Harbour Branch Railway has been finally decided upon. The cost is estimated at between sixty and seventy lakhs of rupees (400,000*l.* and 467,000*l.*).

CANADA.

Bridge Construction.

The "Canada Gazette" of the 6th March notifies that sealed tenders, addressed to the Secretary, and marked on the envelope "Tender for the Red River Bridge," will be received at the office of the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway, Ottawa, until noon on 8th April, 1909, for the construction and erection of a steel and concrete bridge and approach spans over the Red River between Winnipeg and St. Boniface, near the foot of Lombard Street, together with grading and approach spans over streets in Winnipeg.

Separate tenders must be submitted for the sub-structure with other work as per schedule, and for superstructure.

Plans and profiles may be seen, and full information obtained, at the office of the Chief Engineer at Ottawa, and also at the office of the District Engineer at St. Boniface, Man.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Commissioners, which may be had on application to Mr. Hugh D. Lumsden, Chief Engineer, Ottawa, Ont., and Mr. S. R. Poulin, District Engineer, St. Boniface, Man.

Each tender must be signed and sealed by all the parties to the tender, and witnessed, and be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered Bank of the Dominion of Canada, payable to the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway, for the sum of 25,000 dols. for substructure and other work as per schedule, and for the sum of 25,000 dols. for steel superstructure and floor.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A London firm wish to get into touch with Canadian exporters of **white round wood.**

A London firm wish to appoint an agent in Canada for the sale of all kinds of **folding baby cars, folding garden furniture, folding suites, stools, folding upholstered chairs, &c.**

A Sheffield firm of **cutlery** and **plate** manufacturers wish to be placed in touch with Canadian firms dealing in such goods.

Enquiry has been made by a Glasgow firm for the names of actual owners of **apatite properties** in Canada.

A Scottish firm manufacturing **electric, hydraulic, steam and hand lifts, &c., hydraulic presses and pumps** wish to be placed in touch with a reliable firm in Canada whom they could appoint to represent them.

Enquiry is made by a firm in Lancashire for the names of **Canadian exporters of produce** who may require representation in Great Britain.

An East Anglian firm manufacturing **fretsaw machines, fretsaws, fretwork outfits, general tools, designs for fretwork articles (printed on paper), and fittings for the designs,** wish to enter the Canadian market.

A Lancashire firm manufacturing **cotton driving ropes, mill bandings, baling cords, twines, &c.,** wish to open up business with Canada.

A firm of brokers in London are prepared to sell **Canadian mica, mineral ores, minerals, &c.,** on commission, and would like to hear from Canadian exporters.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A correspondent in **British Columbia** is desirous of securing the agency of some United Kingdom manufacturers wishing to enter the market in that province of Canada.

A **Winnipeg** firm wish to hear from United Kingdom firms desiring Canadian trade who might be prepared to appoint them as agents.

A Western Canada firm of manufacturers' agents wish to be placed in communication with United Kingdom firms manufacturing **linoleum, lace and net curtains, drapery goods, Irish linens, brushes** and **glue, &c,** who may require representation in the Dominion.

A firm in the Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec wish to purchase good **second-hand jute bags,** and would like to get into communication with United Kingdom dealers.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

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Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

The manufacturers of a patented "**non-slip**" **ruler** are prepared to appoint suitable Canadian resident agents.

A Manchester firm of engineers are in a position to undertake the purchase, inspection, and shipping of **engineering materials** of all kinds, and would like to get into touch with Canadian railways, mines, factories, or importing houses wishing to utilise their services.

A Lancashire firm invite samples and quotations from Canadian producers of **graphite.**

A company manufacturing **cotton cleaning waste, sponge cloths, lamp wicks**, &c., wish to get into touch with Canadian firms prepared to undertake their agency.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A British Columbia firm of commission agents ask to be placed in communication with a first-class manufacturer of **umbrellas** who seeks representation in Western Canada.

A Toronto firm of manufacturers' agents would like to get into correspondence with United Kingdom manufacturers of **men's furnishings, ladies' ready-made clothing** and general **dry goods lines.**

A British Columbia firm of wholesale grocers are prepared to act for United Kingdom manufacturers of **groceries** and **grocers' sundries.**

A Toronto manufacturers' agent would like to represent a London firm importing **Ceylon tea** in bulk.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Bucket Dredger, Tug and Hopper Barges.

The Board of Trade Correspondent at Adelaide (Mr. J. Creswell) has forwarded a copy of the specification for the construction and delivery at Port Adelaide, of one bucket dredger, one tug and two hopper barges, required by the Engineer-in-Chief's Department at Adelaide, tenders for which (as noted on page 5 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th January), will be received at Adelaide up to the 28th April. The specification may be examined by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Steam Fire Engine and Appliances.

The Bloemfontein Correspondent of the "Cape Times" states that a special committee appointed by the Bloemfontein Corporation has recommended that, to secure the efficiency of the fire brigade, a steam motor engine and other modern appliances should be purchased forthwith. The committee's recommendations, if carried out, will involve an expenditure of 8,300*l.*

EGYPT.

Clothing, Arms and Ammunition, and Stores.

The Board of Trade have received from the Director of Stores of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior copies of the conditions of tender and specifications for the supply of the clothing, equipment, arms and ammunition, and general stores required by the Stores Department, for a period of one year commencing July 1st, 1909. Tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, on stamped paper (obtainable from Lieut-Col. J. H. Western, C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.) up to noon on the 15th April. A deposit equal to 10 per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for will be required. Every tenderer must state his name and address in his tender, and must specify an authorised representative or agent in Egypt, giving his name and address, who will be responsible on his behalf for the due fulfilment of the contract. The goods supplied must be exactly similar to the patterns kept at the Bulac Stores and at the office of the delegate of the Ministry of the Interior in London, Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, C.M.G., address as above.

The above-mentioned copies of the specifications may be *obtained* by British contractors on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Commercial Enquiry.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have been notified by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce that a firm of import and export merchants in that city, with many years' experience as buyers of all classes of goods for several colonial and foreign markets, wish to extend their business, and would like to act as **buyers or shippers** for firms established in Egypt. Communications should be addressed to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for transmission to the applicants.

Agent in Upper Egypt for British Firms.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are notified by the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt that a trading company at Luxor wish to secure agencies for **harvesting and ploughing machines, locomobiles, gas engines,**

Openings for British Trade.

pumps and pipes, sheet and bar iron, tin solder, screws, nails and **general ironmongery, steam flour mills** (complete), **light motor cars** with Cave's patent tyres, suitable for sandy and soft roads, **general hardware, stationery, provisions** in tins of every description, **biscuits, tea, coffee, beer** and **stout, whisky, cigars, cotton goods, muslins, threads, needles, soaps, scents,** &c. The company would like in the first instance priced catalogues and (where possible) an assortment of samples.

Communications from British firms interested should be addressed to the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, Alexandria.

RUSSIA.

Water-supply Works.

H.M. Commercial Attaché for Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) writes that according to the official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg) of 19th February/4th March, the Council of Ministers have approved the Bill brought forward by the Ministry of the Interior in connection with a canalisation and water supply scheme for St. Petersburg. The Ministry propose that these measures should be carried out direct by the Government, with the participation of the St. Petersburg Town Council, and with this object in view it is proposed to form at the Ministry of the Interior a special Government Inter-Departmental Commission with the participation of representatives of the Municipality. Mr. Cooke adds that the Bill will doubtless have to pass the Duma and the Council of the Empire.

As regards the water supply of other Russian towns, Mr. Cooke remarks that some of them, such as Moscow, Odessa, Warsaw, Kharkoff, Vologda, Baku, &c., already have municipally-managed water supplies: others have supplies run by private companies under contracts with the Town Councils, as at Astrakhan, Berdicheff, Witebsk, Grodno, Dvinsk, Kazan, Kieff, Kronstadt, Rostoff-on-Don (a French company), &c. Of 1082 Russian towns, only 192 have water-works. The Town Councils of Samara, Cheliabinsk and Tiumen are stated to have raised recently the question of a water-supply to be undertaken by the municipalities. The "Golos Moskvi" of 20th February/5th March states that a Moscow engineering firm have received from the Omsk municipality, for examination, projects for a water-supply to that town.

Mr. Cooke adds that only individual enterprise by experts in the subject would avail in investigating the possibilities of participation in these contracts by British firms.

Openings for British Trade.

SWEDEN.

Plant for Bakeries.

H.M. Consul at Stockholm (Mr. H. M. Villiers, M.V.O.) reports that the ultimate date for the receipt of tenders for bakery plant required by the Swedish Army Administration (*see* "Board of Trade Journal" of 25th February, p. 360), has been extended from 30th March to 30th April. Mr. Villiers remarks that it is obvious that foreign tenders will be considered, as free admission to Sweden is being accorded to the necessary materials.

Copies of the specification (which has been revised), with translation, and samples of hard bread and biscuits, may be seen by British contractors interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

DENMARK.

Earthenware Pipes.

H.M. Consul at Copenhagen (Mr. L. C. Liddell) reports that tenders are invited by the Copenhagen Road and Sewers Department for the supply of a number of salt-glazed earthenware pipes. Tenders, which will be received in Copenhagen up to noon on the 22nd March, should be marked "Tilbud paa saltglaserede Lerror," and addressed to "Vej og Kloakanlaegenes 4de Ingeniorafdelings Kontor, Raadhuset, Copenhagen."

Copies of the conditions of tender and specification (in Danish) may be seen by British firms on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NETHERLANDS.

Electrical Machinery, Conductors, &c.

According to the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 13th March, the Dutch "Telegraaf" notifies that the firm of Hofstede, Crull & Willink of Hengelo are arranging to establish a system of electric cables throughout the province of Overijssel, for the purpose of supplying electricity to the various communal authorities who in turn will dispose of it to private persons.

Gas Works.

The same "Bulletin" also refers to the "Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant" which notifies that the Communal Council of Terschelling has granted to Mr. A. Eschanzier a forty years' concession for the construction and working of gas works in that town.

Openings for British Trade.

FRANCE (ALGERIA).

Motor Cars.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 13th March announces, on the authority of the Belgian Consul at Algiers, that there is a steady demand for motor cars and petrol in that country. Four-cylinder cars from 10 to 25 h.p. are preferred.

ITALY.

Railway Plant.

The "Bollettino Finanze, Ferrovie, Industrie" (Rome) of 4th March contains a notice to the effect that the contract between the Government and the Società delle Ferrovie Adriatico-Appennino for the concession relative to the Adriatico-Sangretana railway has been signed. The line, which is 93 miles long, will, it is estimated, cost about 1,000,000*l.* to construct, and must be completed in four years. The railway will receive from the State a yearly subsidy of 340*l.* per kilometre for fifty years, in addition to 2,000*l.* annually from local sources.

The "Bollettino" of 7th March announces that the plans prepared by the General Directorate of the Italian State Railways for the construction of the Porto Palo Menfi branch of the complementary railways in Sicily have been approved.

The same "Bollettino" notifies that the engineer, Guido Tabet, has submitted to the Minister of Public Works the plans of a railway between Voltri and Mele to connect up with Vallestura, thus shortening very considerably the present line from Genoa and especially from Sestri, Pegli, Voltri for Milan and Turin.

The "Sole" (Milan) of 7th March announces that the Council of Public Works have favourably considered the advisability of putting out to private contract the concession for the following two railways:—(1) Rome-Zagarolo-Palestrina-Genazzano-Anticoli-Frosinone with branches through Frascati, Anticoli di Campagna and Guarcino. The line will be 83 miles long, and will be worked electrically. (2) San Severo-Rodi-Sammenaio with branches from San Severo to Lucera and from Sammenaio to Peschici. The system will be nearly 68 miles long.

International Competition for Automatic Coupling Apparatus for Railway Wagons,

With reference to the notice on p. 6 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 1st October, 1908, relative to an international competition, organised by the National College of Italian Railway Engineers, for automatic coupling apparatus for railway wagons, it may be noted that, according to an announcement in the "Times," the date for the receipt of models for this competition has been extended from the 31st December last to the 31st March.

Openings for British Trade.

Competitors will be relieved of the condition with regard to the appointment of an agent at Milan. Models already received will not be unpacked before 31st March, and those who have forwarded their exhibits are at liberty to complete or modify them, or to withdraw them altogether.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Paper-making Machinery.

The "Oesterreichischer Zentral-Anzeiger für das öffentliche Lieferungswesen" (Vienna) of 7th March announces that the large printing houses in Budapest, which are also newspaper publishers, such as the Athenäum, Franklin, &c., are arranging to form a company for the purpose of establishing a rotary printing-paper mill in Hungary. The capital will amount to 3,000,000 kronen (125,000*l.*).

Machine Tools, &c.

The "Zentral-Anzeiger" of 11th March notifies that the firm of Joh. Cervinka, in Prague, are erecting in Hrdloretz works for the manufacture of agricultural machinery.

Mining Machinery.

The "Zentral-Anzeiger" of 14th March notifies that the Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company propose to set aside 2,000,000 kronen (about 83,000*l.*) for the purpose of carrying out coal-boring operations on their South Hungarian property.

Railway Plant.

According to the same "Zentral Anzeiger," preparations are being actively carried forward in connection with an important project for joining up Horowitz (Bohemia) with Rozmital by railway. Dr. Wilhelm Pobuda, of Straschitz, is at the head of the undertaking.

ROUMANIA.

Machinery for Cement Works.

H.M. Consul at Bucharest (Mr. O. Wardrop) reports the announcement in the Roumanian Official Gazette of the 28th February of a grant of privileges under the Industrial Law to C. Gârlesteanu (successor to T. Marocneanu, Maior Gaica & M. Oromolu) for the duty-free importation of machinery necessary for their cement works at Gura-Vaii (Mehedinti).

TURKEY.

Samples of Cloth Sold at Monastir.

Samples of cloth stated to be of Austrian manufacture, sold at Monastir, have been received from the Acting British Consul there, and may be inspected by British manufacturers interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

TURKEY—*continued.*

Machinery, and Railway and Harbour Construction. See articles on pp. 513–4 and 519–21.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Motor Cars. H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco (Mr. W. R. Hearn) has forwarded an extract from the "Chronicle" (San Francisco) of 21st February giving an account of an interview with the manager of the branch of a French firm of motor car manufacturers, who states that trade prospects are very good indeed. His firm alone imported during last year 266 cars, and anticipate importing 375 this year, both figures not including taximeter-cabs. A 50-60 h.p. 6-cylinder model has proved very popular, while 20-30 and 35-45 h.p. cars are also in favour.

BRAZIL.

Railway Construction. The "Diario Official" of 17th February publishes a decree, dated 24th December, 1908, granting a concession for 90 years to the Companhia Estrada de Ferro de Araraquara for the construction and working of a railway, which, commencing from the town of S. José do Rio Preto in the State of S. Paulo, will pass through S. Francisco de Salles in the State of Minas Geraes, and terminate in the town of Jatahy in the State of Goyaz. The construction must be begun within six months after the approval of the final plans, and be completed within three years from the commencement of operations.

Railway Plant. The "Diario" of 23rd February publishes a decree, dated 19th November, containing the terms of a contract entered into with the firm of Proença and Gouvea for a 60 years' lease of the Central do Rio Grande do Norte Railway from the point of departure in the town of Natal to the end of the section comprised between Taipú and Caicó. The above-mentioned firm will, according to the agreement, take over the present railway running between Vatal and Taipú, together with the stations, warehouses and other buildings, and also the new sections between Taipú and Caicó as they become ready for traffic (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 14th January, p. 65).

The "Diario" containing further particulars of the above may be seen by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Sanitary Drainage and Water Works.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 11th February contains a decree issued by the Ministerio de Obras Públicas approving an agreement entered into with the authorities of the Province of Tucumán for the carrying out of sanitary, drainage and water works in the town of Tucumán. The agreement provides that the work shall be completed within four years, and that a sum of $6,665,223 (about 583,000*l.*) shall be appropriated for that purpose. The operations will be carried out and controlled by the Dirección General de Obras de Salubridad de la Nacion, and the works handed over to the provincial authorities of Tucumán as soon as the debt contracted in respect of the undertaking has been paid off.

The "Boletin" containing further particulars may be seen by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

EXHIBITIONS.

RUSSIA.

International Brewery Exhibition at St. Petersburg.

The Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London a notification to the effect that, by the authorisation of the Russian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, an international exhibition of all branches of the brewing industry will be held at St. Petersburg next summer. In order to place Russian producers in touch with all the latest improvements in the brewing industry in other countries, the Organising Committee of the exhibition are very desirous of securing the participation of foreign exhibitors. Free carriage will be accorded on Russian railways for the return of exhibits. Copies of the regulations of the exhibition (in German) together with forms of application for space have been received at the Board of Trade, and may be obtained by British firms interested applying either at the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., or at the Exhibitions Branch, 32, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Jubilee Exhibition, 1910.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 17th February publishes a copy of the Law No. 6,286, dated 13th February, embodying provisions relative to the Jubilee Exhibition which will be held at Buenos Aires in 1910. A brief outline of the scope of this exhibition is contained in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 29th October, 1908, p. 211.

A copy of the "Boletin" containing this Law may be seen by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Constantinople.—H.M. Consul at Constantinople (Mr. A. T. Waugh) has forwarded the following report on trade conditions and opportunities in Constantinople and district :—

Trade in 1908.—The past year, 1908, has not been good for trade. The country had not recovered from two bad harvests and from the mortality among sheep and goats and cattle caused by the severe winter and the cattle disease; since then the uncertainty of the political outlook has kept the market dull, but it is only a temporary depression, and if this year's crops are good, no doubt the merchants in the interior will replenish their stocks. The prosperity of Turkey depends very largely on its crops, and an improvement in trade can hardly be expected until the crops for this year are assured.

Effect of the Revolution on trade.—Native merchants can now travel freely from one town to another, and can obtain a passport for Europe by merely asking for it; the inquisition established at the Custom-house no longer exists; there is a genuine desire to improve the administration and to develop the resources of the country, and to make use of foreign technical knowledge for this purpose; there is absolute liberty of the Press, and a large number of new daily papers are now published in the capital and find a ready sale at ½*d.* each. This wonderful change should bring about a development of the great natural resources of Turkey, and increase the demand for foreign goods and the openings for foreign capital.

Payments.—Several British firms state that they have had unfortunate experience on the Constantinople market as regards payment. It has been pointed out year by year in the Consul's reports that great care is required in selecting customers, but that where such care is exercised there is good business to be done. This care can in most cases only be exercised by the employment of a reliable local agent, who can watch the native customers and keep his principal posted as to their standing. Such agents can be found, and the Consulate makes a special point of serving home firms in this respect. It is only in lines which do not promise to be sufficiently remunerative that there is difficulty in finding suitable agents.

Openings for British trade in Constantinople.—It has been pointed out before that British imports into Turkey, after deducting cotton yarns and piece-goods, woollens, and coal, are not so large as they might be. Out of a total importation of 7,869,000*l.* in 1907 the principal items were :—Cotton yarns 544,000*l.*, cotton piece-goods 4,497,000*l.*, woollens 525,000*l.*, coal 415,000*l.*—a total of 5,981,000*l.* This leaves a total of 1,888,000*l.* to represent all other British sales in Turkey. These figures are an improvement on previous years, but are capable of considerable expansion.

Government contracts.—The Consulate can furnish the names of capable agents to represent firms wishing to tender for Government orders. There is a growing opposition on the part of local industries,

British Trade Abroad.

such as bootmakers, saddlers, &c., to army contracts being placed abroad: nevertheless there is business to be done, and it is very satisfactory to note that British manufacturers are showing themselves more alive to the possibilities of the market.

Government contracts are not to be secured without considerable patience and trouble. The system of adjudication also leads to exaggerated cutting of prices.

General conditions of business in Constantinople.—This cutting of prices, resulting from the keen competition on the Constantinople market, is also a feature of the general trade. In many lines, too, credit is habitually given, and little business can be done without it. A detailed report on the usual terms of payment for different lines of imports on this market has been furnished to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, to which enquiries can be addressed.

The man from the East, whether merchant or official, who endeavours to stimulate his fellow-countrymen at home to greater activity in the Turkish market, is often told that they know all about it, that they still have money to collect out there, and that they do not want to do any more business until they get in their present outstandings. The only reply is that there is good business and bad business, and that it is quite possible to find good customers if sufficient pains are taken to select and to watch them.

Economic development of Turkey.—With regard to the prospects of the economic development of Turkey on a large scale under the constitutional form of government, it is still too early to attempt any forecast. There are immense possibilities in the natural fertility of the soil, and also probably in the mineral wealth of the country. There are great difficulties to be overcome in the absence of means of communication, the poverty, ignorance and apathy of the population, and the still unsettled political condition of the country. Much time and patient labour will be required to overcome these difficulties, and it can hardly be expected that any striking development will take place in this generation. A beginning has been made in the right way by calling in expert foreign aid to reorganise several Government departments.

A large scheme of public works, roads, railways, harbours, regulation of rivers and irrigation has been prepared (*see* pp. 519-21), and various schemes have been mooted for a national steamship navigation company, a national bank, telephones and electric light and tramways, &c. British firms or syndicates who tender for any such work must be prepared to spend some time over the negotiations.

British manufacturers might work up the demand for certain kinds of machinery by sending out representatives to show off

specimen machines in the principal centres of Turkey, and to appoint local agents to sell them.

Argentine Republic.—H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires (Mr. A. C. Ross, C.B.) draws attention to the statistics of trade between the United Kingdom and Argentina, which, he remarks, show the very great importance of the trade to British merchants, exporters and importers.

The Argentine Republic supplies more wheat, maize and frozen meat to the United Kingdom than any other country, as will be seen from the following statement of the imports of those commodities into the United Kingdom during the year 1908, extracted from the official "Accounts relating to Trade, &c., of the United Kingdom":—

Imported from—	Wheat.	Maize or Indian Corn.	Beef, fresh (including refrigerated and frozen).	Mutton, fresh (including refrigerated and frozen).
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Russia	4,609,710	3,005,800	...	...
Germany	90,090	...	...	...
Netherlands	...	...	...	267,222
Roumania	1,837,000	4,899,200	...	...
Turkey	403,500	...	...	...
United States of America...	27,123,400	6,661,300	1,432,142	...
Chile...	2,210,700	...	...	...
Uruguay	...	...	115,938	63,563
Argentine Republic ...	*31,680,200*	*18,457,800*	*3,590,307*	*1,556,746*
British East Indies ...	2,948,900	...	...	...
Australia	5,518,200	...	112,583	636,034
New Zealand	...	...	347,872	1,737,606
Canada	14,442,195	159,400	...	...
Other countries	268,900	657,500	33,147	130,088
Total...	91,132,705	33,841,000	5,631,989	4,391,259

The Argentine Republic is the best customer of the United Kingdom among the South American Republics, both as buyer and seller, the figures of imports and exports for the year 1908 being as follows:—

From and to—	Imports into United Kingdom.	Exports from United Kingdom (Domestic Produce and Manufactures).
	£	£
Argentine Republic	*35,751,403*	*16,433,634*
Chile	7,382,684	3,955,963
Brazil	6,938 829	8,144,877
Peru	2,887,437	1,381,541
Uruguay	1,060,945	2,617,546

British Trade Abroad.

Mr. Ross points out that there seems to be no limit to railway expansion. At the present time, extensions amounting in all to about 3,000 miles are projected. The largest companies are British, and are consequently inclined to use British material. The development of the railways, moreover, results in a corresponding extension of the grain area. The total grain crop for this year has been estimated at from 12 to 14 million tons. This will require from 180 to 200 million sacks, all of which are made of British Indian jute.

He adds that there is a constantly increasing demand in Argentina for manufactured articles, and there is no prejudice against British goods.

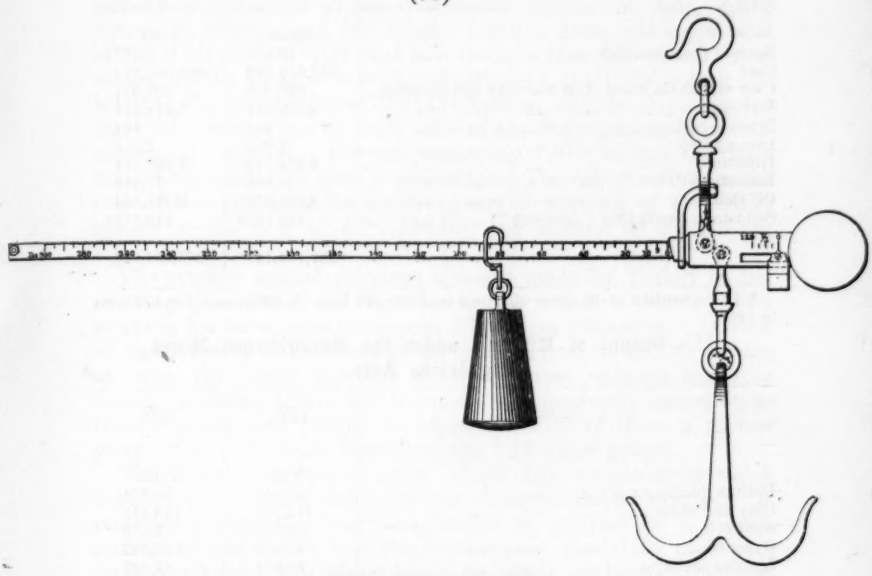
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The 49th annual meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom was held at the Hotel Metropole, Whitehall Place, S.W., on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th March, the chair being taken each day by the Rt. Hon. Lord Brassey, G.C.B. (President). Resolutions on the following (among other) subjects were passed, viz.:—Foreign Tariff schedules, French Customs tariff revision, Anglo-French treaty of commerce, reservation of Crown lands in British Possessions, commercial travellers' licences, false marking of goods, Patents and Designs Amendment Act, seizure of goods under the Merchandise Marks Act, piracy of trade marks, undischarged bankrupts, bankruptcy and County courts, Companies Act, 1907, afforestation, functions of Board of Trade *re* railways, railway amalgamations and working agreements, canals and waterways, daylight saving Bill, telephone rates, Anglo-French postal and telegraph reform, telegraphic communication with the Continent, telegraphic communication within the Empire, Portuguese mail service, cable rates, underground cables, submarine signalling, foreign parcels post, transfer of consols, rating of machinery, railway rates—owners' risk, light dues.

NOTICE UNDER THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT, 1904.

The following is a copy of a Notice (No. 79) giving the results of the examination and testing of a weighing instrument for use in trade that has been submitted to the Board of Trade under the provisions of Section 6 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1904:—

(79)



ONE-EIGHTH FULL SIZE.

The Board of Trade have examined and tested a pattern of a weighing instrument described as a Butcher's Steelyard, of the form herewith shown, submitted to the Department under the provisions of Section 6 of the above Act, and have issued a certificate that the pattern is not such as to facilitate the perpetration of fraud.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1908.

The following tables, showing the output of coal and other minerals in the United Kingdom at mines worked under the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts (the returns from quarries under the Quarries Act are not yet available) during the year 1908, with comparative figures for the preceding year, are extracted from an advance proof (subject to correction) of the Mines and Quarries General Report and Statistics for 1908, a copy

Mineral Production of the United Kingdom in 1908.

of which has been received at the Board of Trade from the Home Office:—

I.—Output of Minerals under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

	1907.	1908.
	Tons.	Tons.
Barium (compounds)	10,297	5,217
Coal	267,812,852	261,506,379
Clay and shale other than fire-clay and oil shale...	320,989	292,981
Fire-clay	2,890,097	2,814,411
Igneous rock	146	404
Iron pyrites	7 394	7,212
Ironstone	8,236,118	7,890,814
Limestone	22,366	15,416
Oil shale	2,675,779	2,891,564
Sandstone (including "Ganister")	128,103*	110,513*
Total	282,104,141	275,534,911

* The quantity of ganister obtained was 120,193 tons in 1907, and 106,477 tons in 1908.

II.—Output of Minerals under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts.

	1907.	1908.
	Tons.	Tons.
Barium (compounds)	30,343	32,074
Clay and shale	114,525	123,911
Gold ore...	12,978	7,123
Gypsum	198,919	190,497
Igneous rocks	69,871	67,627
Iron ore	1,802,946	1,549,469
Lead ore...	31,364	29,097
Limestone	470,263†	500,517†
Rock salt	246,020	209,904
Sandstone	156,324‡	195,568‡
Slate	116,570	104,050
Zinc ore...	20,082	15,189
Other minerals...	117,819	99,371
Total	3,388,024	3,124,397

† Including 8,363 tons of calc spar in 1907 and 2,655 tons in 1908.
‡ Including 11,864 tons of ganister in 1907 and 7,922 tons in 1908.

It must be borne in mind that the above figures do not in all cases represent the total production of the minerals for the year. Large quantities of several important minerals, such as iron ore, limestone, sandstone, slate, clay, &c., are obtained from quarries under the Quarries Act and from other open workings, the returns from which are not yet available. The totals for coal, and the ores of copper, lead, and zinc may, however, be regarded as substantially complete.

PROJECTED PUBLIC WORKS IN TURKEY.

H.M. Consul at Constantinople (Mr. A. T. Waugh) has forwarded the following particulars of projected public works in Turkey:—

A report in connection with a large scheme of public works has been prepared, the principal features of which, relative to railway and harbour construction, are shortly as follows:—

Leaving out of account the Hedjaz and Yemen lines, the total railway construction proposed is 6,180 kiloms. in Asia, 1,012 kiloms. in Europe, and 708 kiloms. junction lines, making a total of 7,900 kiloms. Of this total it is thought that 881 kiloms., consisting of the Cavalla branch (32 kiloms.), the Urfa branch (30 kiloms), the Samsun-Sivas line (434 kiloms), and the Rayak-Egypt line (385 kiloms.), can be built without any State guarantee as self-supporting railways. For the remaining 7,019 kiloms. the State must be prepared to give a guarantee. The report estimates the cost of this guarantee for the first years of working of the entire system at the sum of £T 2,700,000 per annum, or £T 385 per kilometre.

The average annual payment hitherto made by Turkey on her existing guaranteed railways during the first five years of their working has been, says the report, £T 392 per kilometre. In view of the difficulty to the State of assuming the whole of this burden at once, the report proposes to divide these railways into four classes, as shown below, and to build them gradually according to their urgency, and further to adopt for some of them a narrow gauge, 1 or 1·05 metre, instead of the 1·44 metre gauge.

The report examines at great length the conditions on which concessions to build and work the lines should be granted. It recommends that the concessions should be granted for a limited number of years, and that the Government should in each case issue bonds for a loan which would be taken up by the company receiving the concession. The proceeds of the loan would be spent in building the line, but the company would itself provide the rolling-stock (estimated to cost 8,000 to 10,000 fr. per kilometre), which would constitute a guarantee to the Government for the due execution of the company's engagements.

To establish the cost of the construction of each line, a preliminary survey would be made, under Government supervision, and the terms of the concession would be based on the result of this survey. The right to make the survey would either be awarded to the most suitable applicant for the concession, or would be put up to auction to the lowest bidder. A preferential right, on equal terms, for the concession for building and working the line would be reserved to the surveyor. The final contract of concession would be submitted to Parliament.

The following is a list of the railways to be built in Turkey-in-Europe, divided into four classes, A, B, C and D, according to urgency, narrow (1 metre) gauge lines being marked with an asterisk:—

Projected Public Works in Turkey.

	Kiloms.	
1. Rodosto to Muradli	40	A
2. Demir-Hissar to Juma	107	B
3. Drama to Cavalla	32	B
4. Yanina to Santi Quaranta	78	A*
5. Florina to Durazzo	270	B*
6. Papri to Elbasan	14	C*
7. Karaferia to Trapezica	55	D*
8. Trapezica to Kochana to Yanina	224	B*
9. Gabrez to Trapezica	56	B*
10. Baba Eski to Kirk Kilissa	45	C
11. Perlepe to Monastir	14	D
12. Kirk Kilissa to the Bulgarian frontier	46	D
13. Tirana to the Lake of Presba	10	D*
14. Nishauk to the Lake of Ochrida	17	D*
15. Topji to Vardar...	4	A
Total	1,012	

The junction lines of political importance to be constructed are as follows:—

	Kiloms.
1. Mirdar (on the Servian frontier) to Scutari and Harbour of San Giovanni di Medua, with branches to Ipek and Yacova	310
2. Camanova to the Bulgarian frontier	78
3. Guida to Platamona (Greek Junction)	90
4. Mitrovitza to Yeni Bazar to Uvatz	230
Total	708

The following is a list of the railways to be built in Turkey-in-Asia, divided into four classes, A, B, C and D, according to urgency, narrow (1·05 metre) gauge lines, being marked with an asterisk:—

	Kiloms.	
1. Panderma to Soma	190	A
2. Samsun to Sivas (with branch)	434	A*
3. Angora to Yozgad to Sivas	408	A
4. Sivas by way of Sarikli to Erzeroum	542	A*
5. Sarikli to Eghin to Kharput to Diarbekr	390	A*
6. Diarbekr to Bitlis to the Lake of Van	250	B*
7. Eregli (on the Baghdad railway) to Nigdé to Kaisari	187	B
8. Kaisari to Sivas	204	C
9. Rayak to the Egyptian frontier	385	A
10. Halif by way of Sadicha to Baghdad	645	B
11. Khanikin to Sadicha...	120	B
12. Baghdad to Nejef	175	B
13. Trebizond or Tireboli to Erzeroum	380	C*
14. Erzeroum to Bayezzid	360	D*
15. Nejef to Zubeir to Basra	410	D
16. Zubeir to the Persian Gulf	110	D
17. Hauran to Urfa	30	B
18. Diarbekr to Urfa	170	B*
19. Ada Bazar to Havza and a branch to Heraclea ...	690	C*
20. Tripoli in Syria to Katin	100	B
21. Mecca to Jedda	75	...
22. Mecca to Medina	470	...
23. Mecca to Sana	960	...
24. Sana to the Red Sea	260	...
Total	7,945	

Projected Public Works in Turkey.

The list of harbours, for the construction of which it is proposed to grant concessions, together with a rough estimate of their cost, is as follows:—

	£ T.
Trebizond or Tireboli	350,000
Samsun	900,000
Mersina	900,000
Dede Agatch*	500,000
Tripoli in Syria	500,000
Santi Quaranta	300,000
Durazzo	400,000
Panderma	150,000
Total	4,000,000

* This harbour, for special reasons, will be built by the Government. The work might be given to a contractor for payments to be spread over 25 or 30 years, on the plan adopted for the Konia irrigation scheme.

NOTE.—Turkish pound (£T) = 18*s*.

JAPANESE SHIPPING AND SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES BILLS.

H.M. Commercial Attaché at Yokohama (Mr. E. F. Crowe) reports that on the 2nd February two Japanese Government Bills relating to shipping and shipbuilding subsidies were read for the first time.

At present, he says, three kinds of subsidies are given to shipping in Japan, viz., (1) a general encouragement to navigation, (2) a subsidy to certain specially ordered services, (3) a shipbuilding encouragement subsidy. It is proposed by the new Bill, which is called the "Ocean Lines Subsidies Law," to replace (1) and (2) so far as the ships plying to distant countries are concerned. The subsidies to services in neighbouring seas, such as those to China, Corea, &c., will be continued as at present, *i.e.* up to 1914 the vessels employed will continue to enjoy subsidies under the old Navigation Encouragement Law, while the subsidies for specially ordered services will run for the terms for which they were voted, and will then doubtless be renewed.

By the provisions of the new Bill, the Minister of Communications is given power to grant a subsidy to Japanese subjects, or companies consisting solely of Japanese subjects, and, during a period ranging from three to ten years, make them maintain a service on the following four routes:—(1) European route, (2) North American route, (3) South American route, (4) Australian route. Vessels must be over 3,000 tons gross and 12 knots speed,

Japanese Shipping and Shipbuilding Subsidies Bills.

and less than 15 years old.* Foreign-built vessels cannot receive this subsidy (this does not apply to vessels which have been on the Japanese register for less than five years, and for which the consent of the Minister of Communications has been obtained). The subsidy shall be given, according to the conditions of the route, at a rate of not more than 50 sen (about 1*s.*) per ton of gross tonnage for every 1,000 miles traversed at a speed of 12 knots, and for every extra knot the sum given will be increased by not more than 10 per cent. The subsidy will be reduced by 5 per cent. annually after five years. When foreign-built vessels are used, half of the above-mentioned sum is to be given.† When vessels have been built according to special official orders or are employed on a route not yet opened, for five years, the sum may be increased by not more than 25 per cent.

Supplementary regulations provide for the enforcement of the law from 1st January, 1910. Ships which at that time are entitled under the Navigation Encouragement Law to a subsidy, or are being built with a view to enjoying that subsidy, may receive it until 30th September, 1914, but vessels which take advantage of this clause to enjoy the old form of subsidy cannot benefit by the new one.

The changes in the **Shipbuilding** Encouragement Law are as follows:— No money shall be granted to any vessel of less than 1,000 tons gross (the present figure is 700), and instead of distinguishing between vessels of from 700 to 1,000 tons (for each ton of which class the present law allows 12 yen) and vessels of and over 1,000 tons (for each ton of which the law allows 20 yen), a general provision will be made empowering the authorities to grant from 11 to 22 yen per ton according to their judgment.

The authorities will also be able to forbid the use of foreign materials in the equipment of the vessels, except in certain specified cases. Hitherto this clause applied only to the hull and machinery, but the addition of equipment has been suggested so as to aid native industries.

The new law is to be enforced from 1st January, 1910, and to remain in force for ten years, but its provisions will not apply to ships for the building of which permission has already been obtained.

* Mr. Crowe says this is almost certain to be altered to 1,000 tons and 25 years.

† This does not apply to foreign-built vessels which were on the Japanese register before 30th September, 1899.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

CEYLON.

Proposed Increased Import Duty on Salt.

The "Ceylon Government Gazette" for 22nd February contains a draft Ordinance which proposes to increase the Customs duty on salt from Rs. 2·13cts. to Rs. 3 per cwt. on importation into Ceylon.

It is stated in the "Gazette" that the difference between the present import duty and the sale price of salt offers an opportunity for outside competition with the Government monopoly, which it is the object of the draft Ordinance to prevent.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BRITISH INDIA.

Merchandise Marks Act: Importation of Sarongs.

The "Indian Trade Journal" for 25th February contains a Notice stating that the Government of India have decided that the stamping of length on sarongs under sec. 10 (2*f*) of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act of 1889 shall only be required when they are imported into British India in lengths greater than 2½ yards.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of an Appraiser's Bulletin (No. 303), dated 9th February, giving the following Customs decisions which have been issued by the Canadian Department of Customs respecting the rates of duty leviable on the undermentioned articles imported into the Dominion of Canada:—

Articles.	Tariff Item.	Rates of Import Duty.	
		British Preferential Tariff.	General Tariff.
Artificial teeth (per sample), grooved, with moveable plate attached, designed to be fastened to the mouth plate	688	*ad val.* Free.	*ad val.* Free.
Forged balls of chrome steel	393	20 %	30 %
Pin, with miniature on a plate forming the pin head	646	22½ %	35 %
Hollow rectangular shapes of sheet steel (flanged), coated with aluminium and designed for use in the manufacture of bedsteads ...	454	20 %	30 %
Leather tags (lettered), designed for indexing...	179	22½ %	35 %
Pulverized coal (dried), specially prepared for moulders' use, known as "sea coal facing"...	314	15 %	25 %
Rosin size, adapted for use as sizing in the manufacture of wrapping paper	255	5 %	10 %

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

DOMINION OF CANADA—*continued.*

Regulations respecting the Sale of Patent and Proprietary Medicines.

With reference to the notices which have appeared in previous issues of the "Board of Trade Journal"* respecting the importation and sale of proprietary and patent medicines in Canada under Act No. 56 of 1908, the Board of Trade have received a copy of an Order-in-Council, dated 19th February last, laying down the regulations which are to be observed in respect of the sale of any patent or proprietary medicine in stock at the time the Act comes into force—viz., 1st April, 1909.

The Regulations provide that all such medicines in stock or in the hands of manufacturers or dealers shall have a special Inland Revenue Stamp attached thereto, the charge for such stamps being at the rate of 2 cents per 100 stamps. These stamps are to be attached to the wrapper of each individual bottle, box or other package in such a manner as to seal the package. When the bottle, &c., is not covered by the wrapper, the stamp is to be attached in such a manner that the bottle, &c., cannot be opened without breaking the stamp.

Importation of Medicines containing Cocaine Prohibited.

No medicines containing cocaine or any of its derivatives or preparations shall have stamps attached thereto, as, under the provisions of section 7 of the above-mentioned Act, the manufacture, sale, and importation of all such medicines is, after 1st April, 1909, prohibited.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Importation of Tools and "Minor Articles."

The "Commonwealth Gazette" for 30th January contains various Customs By-Laws, dated 22nd January, relative to the importation of tools and "minor articles" into the Commonwealth, viz.:—

1. The By-Law of 14th September, 1908, which provides for the free importation of various *tools of trade*, is amended by the withdrawal of the following articles:—

Printers' tools, viz.:
Chases.
Galleys.

2. The following *machine tools* and parts thereof may, with effect from 14th September, 1908, be admitted free of duty into the Commonwealth:—

For paper-finishing, cutting and folding:
Varnishing.

* Viz., in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 27th August, 1908, 10th September 1908, and 7th January, 1909.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

3. The following "*minor articles*" for use in the manufacture of goods within the Commonwealth, may be accorded free entry, with effect from 1st July, 1908:—

For cigarettes:

Imitation gold tips.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Customs Decisions.

A Customs Notice (No. 105), dated 17th February, has been issued by the Cape Government by order of the Board of Control giving the rates of duty leviable on the undermentioned articles imported into the South African Customs Union:—

Articles.	Tariff No.	Rates of Duty.	Rebate allowed upon goods, the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom and reciprocating British Colonies.
Wedding cake ornaments made solely from gum paste...	175	15 % *ad val.*	3 % *ad val.*

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Importation of Beeswax or Foundation Comb.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 564 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 17th December last, restricting, under Proclamation No. 394 of 1908, the importation of bees, honey and beeswax into Cape Colony, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a further Proclamation (No. 87 of 1909) amending, with effect from 23rd February, the above-mentioned Proclamation of 1908.

The present Proclamation provides for the prohibition of the importation of beeswax or foundation comb, except under a written permission previously obtained from the Secretary for Agriculture, and subject to the production in the case of each consignment of such sworn declarations, in prescribed form, as may be required.

The declarations that are required to accompany the importations of beeswax or foundation comb prescribe (1) that the wax has been melted for not less than 2½ hours at a temperature of not less than 212° F., and (2) that no bee disease of any description exists on the premises of the person making the declaration or within 2 miles thereof.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—*continued.*

Prohibition of Importation of Live Stock from West Africa.

The "Cape of Good Hope Gazette" for 23rd February, contains a Proclamation (No. 88 of 1909), providing, with effect from that date, for the prohibition of the importation of any live stock into Cape Colony from any State or Territory oversea, unless such live stock are accompanied by a certificate signed by the officer in command or master of the vessel on board of which such animals are imported, to the effect that such stock—the number and general description of which must be specified—have not been shipped, landed or transhipped at any port on the West African Coast, north of Walfish Bay.

Any live stock introduced into the Colony in contravention of the above Proclamation shall be liable to be summarily destroyed and the officer in command or master of the vessel, as above-mentioned, permitting such stock to be landed therefrom, shall for every animal permitted to be landed, be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding 100*l.* or in default of payment to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding six months, unless such fine be sooner paid.

TRANSVAAL.

Importation of Fruit.

The Board of Trade have received information from their Trade Correspondent in Natal stating that a Notice has been issued by the Transvaal Agricultural Department notifying that all shipments of fruit arriving in the Transvaal after 17th February, and infested with codling moth to the extent of 1 per cent., will be destroyed.

It is further stated that importers will not be allowed to return the fruit to consignors as heretofore.

EGYPT.

Revised Valuation Tariff for Rangoon and Saigon Rice

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 1st March contains a notice to the effect that from the 1st March to the 31st May, or until further notice, Rangoon rice will be valued for Tariff purposes at 770 *millièmes* (15s. 9½d.) and Saigon rice at 715 *millièmes* (14s. 8d.) per sack of 2 cwt. net, in each case.

SWEDEN.

Importation of Clover and Hop Seed.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy and translation of a Swedish Royal Ordinance providing that foreign seed of red clover and hybrid clover, as well as hop seed, shall be imported into Sweden only on con-

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

dition that they are enclosed in sacks marked clearly on the outside with the words "*utlandskt fro*" (foreign seed), and only after having undergone treatment at the hands of the Customs authorities with a solution of "*eosin*," in the manner described in the Ordinance.

These documents may be inspected by persons interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NETHERLANDS.

Customs Decisions.

The "Nederlandsche Staatscourant" for the 13th January contains a number of decisions of the Dutch Ministry of Finance respecting the tariff classification of various articles. The more important of these decisions are noted below:—

Articles.	Rate of Duty.
	Florins cts.
Gas-stoves for warming sad-irons, consisting of a small iron oven, containing gas-jets, with a grid above them, dutiable as "Iron manufactures"	5 % *ad val.*
Cans for the carriage of milk	Free
Note.—No cans or boxes of a less capacity than 10 litres can be included under this heading.	
"*Sanitas*" (a disinfectant) imported in casks, dutiable as "Other soft soap"	100 kilogs. 1 00
Shaft rings and parts thereof, for mines, dutiable as "Manufactures of iron or steel"	5 % *ad val.*
Camphor tablets in tin boxes of 1 English pound weight, dutiable as "Small wares"	5 % „
Liquid extract of meat, in whatever manner packed, dutiable as "Sauces"...	100 kilogs. 25 00
Steam motor carriages, dutiable as "Vehicles" on their value as a whole, including the steam-engine forming a component part	5 % *ad val.*
Locomotives, propelled by benzine, benzol or petroleum motors, and *electric accumulator locomotives*, if they cannot be used for carrying passengers or goods	Free
Automobile fire-engines, propelled by mechanical power ...	Free
Steel springs, forming part of metallic packing for steam engines—	
Imported along with other parts of such packing ...	Free
Imported separately, dutiable as "Manufactures of steel"	5 % *ad val.*
Spiral springs for valves of steam engines, imported separately, dutiable as "Manufactures of steel"... ...	5 % „
Petroleum field forges, motor lamps and *lamps with vertical burners*, dutiable according to their chief component material...	5 % „
Perforated iron plates, suitable for no other purpose than for use as parts of drying ovens, as "Drying plates" ...	Free
All measuring, registering, safety and similar appliances, when imported separately, even if intended for use only as parts of steam engines or other machinery, dutiable as "Instruments, mathematical, physical, &c., &c."... ...	5 % *ad val.*

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BELGIAN CONGO.

Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Gunpowder.

According to a Supplement to the Tariff of the Belgian Congo recently published by the International Customs Tariffs Bureau, a Belgian Royal Decree was issued on the 6th January last respecting the importation of firearms, ammunition and gunpowder into the Belgian Congo. The provisions of this Decree are as follows:—

The importation of all kinds of firearms, ammunition and gunpowder destined for natives, as well as the sale and delivery of all kinds of firearms, ammunition and gunpowder to natives, is prohibited in that portion of the territories of the Belgian Congo defined below. This prohibition, however, does not apply to firearms, ammunition and gunpowder which the Governor-General may deem it expedient, in quite exceptional cases, to allow to be delivered to trustworthy natives, nor to firearms, ammunition and gunpowder imported in transit and destined for regions outside the said territories. The prohibition is to remain in operation for a period of four years from the 15th February, 1909.

The boundaries of the territories to which the prohibition applies are as follows:—

The Atlantic Ocean; the frontier between the Congolese and Portuguese territories (Cabinda Enclave); the frontier between the Congolese and French territories as far as Banzyville on the Ubanghi; from this point, a line forming a junction with the eastern crest of the basin of the River Mongala; then such crest; then a line forming a junction with the mouth of the Itimbiri; from this point, the western boundary of the district of the Arruwimi as far as the 2nd degree south latitude; the northern boundary of the districts of Kasai and Eastern Kwango as far as the outlet of the Kwango; a line up the Kwango to the southern frontier of the Belgian Congo; such frontier as far as the Atlantic Ocean.

SPAIN.

Modification of the Special Taxes on Alcohol.

With reference to the notice at page 319 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 12th November last, respecting a Bill for the modification of the special taxes on alcohol in Spain, the Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Gaceta de Madrid," containing the text of the Bill as passed into law.

As regards imported products, the effect of the law is to reduce the special tax on alcohol and alcoholic products (which is levied in addition to the Customs duty) from 70 to 20 centimos per litre. The new rate proposed by the Bill was 40 centimos per litre. Compound spirits and liqueurs imported in bottles or flasks are to

be subject to a stamp tax at the rates fixed for similar national beverages, viz.:—

Compound spirits and liqueurs in bottles or flasks of a capacity not exceeding 3 litres:—

Aniseed spirits and rum, with or without sugar, including *escarchados*, cane spirit, cognac, gin, whatever be the alcoholic strength; and other compound spirits and liqueurs of an alcoholic strength not exceeding 34 centesimal degrees, in bottles or flasks:

	Pesetas.
Up to ½ litre capacity	0·10
Of greater capacity	0·20

The above compound spirits and liqueurs if the alcoholic strength exceeds 34 centesimal degrees, in bottles or flasks:

	Pesetas.
Up to ½ litre capacity	0·20
Of greater capacity	0·40

The text of the Law (which also modifies the tax on alcohol and alcoholic products manufactured in Spain), together with the regulations drawn up to give effect to its provisions, may be seen by persons interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

ITALY.

Alterations of the Tariff Index.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of an Italian Royal Decree, dated 27th December, 1908, providing for certain modifications of and additions to the "Repertorio," or official Index to the Customs Tariff, as shown in the subjoined statement:—

Articles.	Tariff Heading under which classified.	Tariff No.	Rate of Duty. Per 100 kilogs
			lire cts.
Phosphate of lime, prepared artificially*	Sulphate of baryta	43 (*c*)	1 00
Fish grease†	Other greases	334	Free
Kienol (*see* pine oil)‡	...	...	...
Nitrate of lime‡—			
Chemically pure	Chemical products not specially mentioned	59	10 00
Other	Manures	351	Free
Pine oil (*olio di pino*)‡	Mineral, &c., oils: heavy	8 (*a*)	8 00

* Hitherto classified as a chemical product not specially mentioned.
† Hitherto classified under Tariff No. 7 (*a*)—fish oil not purified.
‡ Addition to the "Repertorio."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The following additional note is appended to the heading "waste of hides and skins"† (*avanzi di pelli*) :—

Old leather boots and shoes are to be classified as "waste of hides and skins," provided that their condition does not permit them to be used otherwise than in the manufacture of glue or artificial leather, or for manure.

Old boots and shoes, broken and otherwise spoilt in such a manner that they cannot serve their proper purpose, but from which pieces or strips of leather can be cut suitable for the manufacture of sandals and similar articles, are to be classified for half their weight as "hides and skins, tanned, without the hair, and unfinished, other,* and for the other half, as "leather parings."†

ECUADOR.

New Duties on Sugar and Beer.

The Ecuadorian "Registro Oficial" for 16th October last contains a Law dated 15th October providing that sugar imported into Ecuador shall pay an import duty of two centavos per kilogramme, subject to the usual surcharge of 100 per cent.; but whenever the Guayaquil price of national sugar exceeds eight sucres per 100 kilogrammes, foreign sugar is to be admitted free of duty, and is to continue to be so admitted so long as the price remains above that imit.

By the same Law, the import duty on beer is raised from three to five centavos per kilogramme (gross weight), subject to the usual surcharge of 100 per cent., and the excise tax on national beer, as also the consumption duty on imported beer, are abolished.

NICARAGUA.

Analysis of Imported Foods and Drugs.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a Contract entered into by the Nicaraguan Government and a private firm for the establishment by the latter of a chemical laboratory for the analysis of imported foods and drugs. The Contract, which was entered into in conformity with the provisions of the Decree of the 6th April, 1908 (which prohibits the importation of adulterated foods and drugs), stipulated that an office (to be called the General Office of Chemical Analysis) was to be established at Managua within four months of the date of the Contract (28th August, 1908), to be provided with a complete chemical laboratory and managed by a competent chemist, for the examination of all kinds of imported food products, mineral waters, wines, beers, liquors, drugs, patent medicines, and medicaments in

* Duty, 25 lire per 100 kilogs.
† Free of duty.

general. The Government will not allow entry through the Customs house to any of the foregoing articles unless they are accompanied by a certificate from the General Office of Chemical Analysis, or unless such a certificate has already been sent to Customs houses in respect of similar articles. The above provisions as to certificates will come into force on the 18th April, 1909.

The General Office of Chemical Analysis will issue the respective certificates to manufacturers and their agents, and to exporters or commission houses, and will send a copy to all Nicaraguan Customs houses, provided that the interested parties previously send samples of the goods for analysis, paying fees in accordance with the following schedule:—

	Dollars. *American gold.*
Analysis of articles of food preserved in tins	20 00
Analysis of articles of food preserved in barrels...	10 00
Analysis of articles of food not specified	20 00
Analysis of patent medicines	50 00
Analysis of poisonous medicaments and substances	50 00
Analysis of drugs and medicaments in general	10 00
Analysis of wines, liquors, beers, and mineral waters	10 00
Analysis of drinking water	5 00
Analysis of substances and articles not specified	20 00 to 50 00

The term of the Contract is five years, and certificates issued by the Office will have legal force only so long as the contract remains in force. Samples sent for analysis and all apparatus, machinery, chemical supplies, &c., necessary for the equipment of the laboratory are to be admitted free of duty.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

RUSSIA.

Proposed New Railways.

The "Deutscher Reichsanzeiger" (Berlin) of 2nd March announces, on the authority of the German Consul at Kieff, that the construction of the projected railway from Kamenets Podolsk to Schepetowka has at last been sanctioned. Operations will, it is stated, be begun shortly, and the line must be completed within three years.

It is also contemplated to build a new line from Kowel (Government of Volhynia) to Pinsk (Government of Minsk), which will serve as a continuation of the Kowel-Vladimir-Volhynia railway.

The "Nachrichten für Handel und Industrie" (Berlin) of 24th February announces that the Committee formed for the purpose of considering the question of railway construction has agreed upon the expediency of building new lines to open up the Vistula districts which are comprised within the Kalisch

Shipping and Transport.

and Piotrkow Governments. It is intended to take the main line from Czenstochowa to Sjeradz, and to establish branch lines from Burshenin to Schunska Volga, from Ossiakow to Weruschow and from Parzimjechi to Praschka. The total length of the projected lines is 185 versts (about 123 miles). The cost of the undertaking is estimated at 11,100,000 roubles (about 1,172,000*l.*), and the concession will be offered for 81 years, with the provision that it may be purchased by the Government after 25 years.

GERMANY—NETHERLANDS—CANADA.

New Fortnightly SS. Service.

H.M. Consul at Rotterdam (Mr. H. Turing) reports that the Holland-America Line, the Hamburg-America Line, and the North German Lloyd, in conjunction with the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways, will run a fortnightly service from Northern Europe to Canada for the conveyance of passengers and goods. The ss. "Prinz Oskar" of the Hamburg-America Line will inaugurate the service, leaving Hamburg on the 19th March, touching at Bremen on the 20th, and calling at Rotterdam on the 22nd. The first sailing from Canada to Hamburg, *via* Rotterdam and Bremen, will take place on 8th April. The two first voyages will be to Halifax and St. John, the others to Quebec and Montreal.

UNITED STATES (PHILIPPINE ISLANDS).

Harbour Regulations.

H.M. Consul-General at Manila (Mr. R. de B. Layard) has forwarded a copy of a Customs Adminstrative Circular (No. 531) of the Insular Collector of Customs, Manila, defining the limits of certain harbours of the Philippines, and prescribing additional regulations for the guidance of shipmasters in Philippine harbours. The circular may be seen by British firms interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

VENEZUELA.

Lighthouse and Wharf Dues at Puerto Cabello.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Caracas (Mr. H. Tom) has forwarded translations of decrees, issued on 4th February, by which the charge of 15 centimos of a bolivar (1½*d.*) per ton for lighthouse service, paid by vessels of more than 150 tons arriving at Puerto Cabello on a round voyage, is reduced to 5 centimos of a bolivar (½*d.*) per ton. National and foreign men-of-war, vessels employed by the Government on duties of public service, and national vessels engaged in the coasting trade are exempted from the payment of this charge: further, all vessels, foreign as well as Venezuelan, arriving at Puerto Cabello for the sole purpose of undergoing repairs at the national dockyard there, will from the date of the decree be exempted from the payment of lighthouse and wharf dues.

Shipping and Transport.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Coastal Steamship Services.

With reference to the notice on p. 386 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 25th February relative to Argentine coastal steamship services, H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires (Mr. A. C. Ross, C.B.) now reports the cessation of the line referred to in the second paragraph of the notice in question, which had started in competition with the Linea Nacional del Sud.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

TRANSVAAL.

Mineral Production in 1908.

The following statistics of the production of gold, coal, copper ore, tin ore and galena in the Transvaal in the years 1907 and 1908 are taken from the annual report of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines:—

	1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Gold ... ... fine ozs.	6,451,384	27,403,738	7,052,617	29,957,610
Coal ... ... tons.	2,883,342	775,721	3,012,692	793,949
Copper ore	—	54,170	—	33,018
Tin ore	—	50,223	—	97,128
Galena	—	16,002	—	26,718

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Coal Imports at Singapore.

The Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore (Mr. A. Stuart) has compiled the following statement of the imports of coal at Singapore during the years 1907 and 1908, distinguishing countries of origin:—

From—	1907.	1908.
	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	77,112	35,989
Australia	84,719	188,006
Bengal	155,162	56,530
Natal	—	26,043
Sarawak and Labuan	4,177	2,015
Japan	243,508	300,945
Dutch Borneo	18,475	9,822
Sumatra	—	2,342
Tongkin	6,557	6,807
Total	589,710	628,499

Minerals, Metals and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Cement Trust.

H.M. Embassy at Washington report announcements in the United States press regarding the formation of an agreement for the maintenance of prices between the leading cement manufacturers. The trust, which is already a monopoly in the Eastern States, has an output capacity of forty million barrels annually, the total output of the United States in 1907 being about fifty million barrels. A conference was recently held in Chicago to endeavour to extend the trust over the middle west and it seems likely that this will be successful. An increase in price of from 25 cents to 30 cents a barrel (1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*) is anticipated.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

ITALY.

Silk Cocoon Crop.

H.M. Consul at Milan (Mr. J. H. Towsey) has forwarded a translation of an extract from the "Bollettino di Sericoltura" (Milan) of 27th February, giving particulars of the Italian cocoon crop in 1908.

The crops in several provinces of Piedmont and Venetia were above the average, but those in other departments of Italy, especially Tuscany and the Marches, were deficient. The crop in 1908 is given as 53,193,000 kilograms of fresh cocoons, against 57,058,000 kilograms in 1907, the average for the years 1902–7 being 53,262,000 kilograms. The quality of the cocoons was fairly good. The prevalence of Chinese crossings favourably affected the average general yield, and it is reckoned that 11·70 kilograms of fresh cocoons (including waste ones) are required to produce 1 kilogram of silk, as compared with 11·50 kilograms in 1907. Taking into account the quantity of cocoons used for reproduction, it is found that the quantity of silk spun from cocoons produced in 1908 is 4,486,000 kilograms. This is nearly 7 per cent. less than that from the crop of 1907, which was a specially favourable year both as regards crop and yield.

The imports of foreign cocoons were also less than during 1907.

The following table shows the quantity of silk produced in Italy from domestic and foreign cocoons:—

	1907.	1908.
Silk produced from—	Kilogs.	Kilogs.
Italian cocoons	4,820,000	4,486,000
Foreign	1,353,000	1,012,000
Total	6,173,000	5,498,000

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 13th March, 1909, were as follows:—

Wheat	35*s.*	8*d.*
Barley	28*s.*	4*d.*
Oats	18*s.*	2*d.*

For further particulars see p. 541.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 542, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 13th March, 1909, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1908.

NEW ZEALAND.

Agricultural Season.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in New Zealand (Mr. G. H. F. Rolleston) reports, under date of 3rd February, that the season has been a splendid one for all classes of farm produce, and that the output of wool, meat and butter will be unusually large. Abundance of grass ensures a good season for fattening, and heavy cargoes of mutton and lamb are going forward; the prices are well up to the average. The dairy industry is having a record season, and the quantity of butter and cheese exported will far exceed the output of any previous year. The hemp market was still (at the date of the report) depressed.

RUSSIA.

Winter Crop Prospects.

H.M. Consul-General at Odessa (Mr. C. S. Smith) has forwarded the following particulars of the prospects of the coming harvest in Russia, taken from the "Torgovo-Promyshlennaya Gazeta" of 17th February/2nd March:—

The information collected by the Central Statistical Committee for 10th/23rd January last is to the effect that the condition of the young shoots of the winter grain may be considered as safe in fifteen provinces where they entered the winter in a satisfactory condition, and where an early and effective snow-cover protects them, viz., in Archangel, Vologda, Kazan, Kursk, Moscow, Nijni-Novgorod, Orenburg, Penza, Podolia, Poltava, Simbirsk, Ufa, Irkutsk, Tobolsk, and Tomsk.

As to the probable safety of the winter crops in the other fifty-two provinces and districts, no such definite estimates can be made, partly because even in the autumn the shoots were already in a somewhat unsatisfactory state, and also because the snow-cover formed too late or was too shallow to protect the young grain.

Agriculture.

GERMANY (BAVARIA).

Vintage.

The British Vice-Consul at Nuremberg (Mr. S. Ehrenbacher) reports that, according to an official statement, the 1908 Bavarian wine-vintage produced 646,072 hectolitres (14,213,584 gallons), as compared with 640,305 hectolitres (14,086,710 gallons) in 1907. The value of the 1908 production amounts to 25,640,000 marks (about 1,257,000*l.*). In the Palatinate, the chief wine-growing district in Bavaria, the vintage in 1908 turned out less than in 1907, but may be termed, in comparison with former years, as satisfactory in both quantity and quality. Lower Franconia raised a considerably better wine than in 1907. A larger vintage than in the foregoing year was likewise produced in 1908 in Middle Franconia and Suabia.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Census of Meat Animals.

H.M. Embassy at Washington report that figures published by the Department of Agriculture show an increase in the number of cattle in the United States amounting to more than a third of a million head, as compared with a year ago, and a million head decrease, as compared with two years ago. Hogs are also said to be something under two million head less than a year ago, and sheep a million and a half greater in number. The increase in cattle is entirely in milch cows, there being shown a decrease of nearly 200,000 head of other cattle, comprising the beef herds.

The figures and valuations, as given by the Department of Agriculture, are as follows:—

	1908.		1909.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		Dols.		Dols.
Milch cows	21,194,000	650,057,000	21,720,000	702,945,000
Other cattle	50,073,000	845,938,000	49,879,000	863,764,000
All kinds of cattle ...	71,267,000	1,495,995,000	71,599,000	1,566,709,000
Hogs	56,084,000	339,030,000	54,147,000	354,794,000
Sheep	54,631,000	211,736,000	56,084,000	192,632,000

These figures are taken from the reports of voluntary correspondents and other sources and not from an official census. They are supposed, nevertheless, to indicate approximately the head of animals.

Agriculture.

MEXICO.

Irrigation Scheme.

The "Mexican Herald" of the 26th February announces that a company is to be formed with a capital of 10,000,000 dols. (about 1,400,000*l.*) to take over and work the Cuesta concessions for the use of the waters of Lake Chapala for irrigation purposes and for the development of power on the Santiago river. It is believed that more than 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres) can be irrigated from Lake Chapala. The company will receive 20 dols. per hectare from the Government for irrigation. They will also be allowed to claim all land reclaimed by the lowering of the level of Lake Chapala.

The power developed on the Santiago river will be used principally for pumping purposes, and an order for power and pumping machinery amounting to several million dollars has been placed with a German firm.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Harvest: Maize and Sugar.

H.M. Legation at Buenos Aires reports (1st February) that the Argentine harvest is being reaped under the most favourable circumstances. Reports with regard to the maize crop are very reassuring, and the Ministry of Agriculture place the total yield at about 6,000,000 metric tons.

The sugar cane crop for the year is estimated at 150,000 metric tons, which will more than supply the needs of the market.

Live Stock Census.

The past year is regarded as the best yet recorded in both the pastoral and agricultural industries of the country. A census has recently been taken of them, but figures are only available at present with regard to live stock. They show, since 1905, a great increase in cattle, a diminution of 10 per cent. in sheep, and a duplication of horses. The returns show steady improvement in quality under the influence of imported stock, the complete elimination of the pure native breeds being now merely a question of time. The return places the total value of livestock in the country at 139,000,000*l.* The year has not been a good one for pedigree stock importers. As regards cattle and sheep, the number imported was less than half that in 1907. There is little variation in the breeds most in demand, Durham cattle and Lincoln sheep continuing to form nine-tenths of the arrivals. The figure for horses is the same as that for the previous year.

Cotton in Santa Fe.

Experiments are now being conducted in Santa Fe Province in cotton cultivation, and seed is being supplied for the purpose. No official report has yet been made, but satisfactory results are expected. The experiment will probably be extended next season.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

State of the Labour Market in February.

According to a report in the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" for March,* based on 6,603 statistical returns, viz., 2,881 returns from trade unions and 3,722 returns from employers (relating to 1,118,529 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades), besides a large number of returns of a non-statistical character received from employers' associations, trade unions, local correspondents and other sources, employment, on the whole, continued to improve during February.

As compared with a year ago, most of the principal industries showed a decline. In the boot and shoe and cotton trades there was little change, and in the linen, hosiery and tinplate industries there was some improvement.

In the 416 trade unions, with a net membership of 696,688, making returns, 58,670 (or 8·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, 1909, as compared with 8·7 per cent. at the end of January, 1909, and 6·0† per cent. at the end of February, 1908.

* For list of principal contents see p. 543.

† This figure differs slightly from that previously published owing to fuller and more accurate information being available as regards certain trade unions.

Fishery Statistics, February, 1909.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of fish landed on the English and Welsh, Scottish, and Irish Coasts during the month and two months ended February, 1909, compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1908:—

—	Month of February.				Two Months ended February.			
	1908.		1909.		*1908.*		1909.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	Quantity.	Value.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	Quantity.	Value.
England and Wales—	*Cwts.*	£	Cwts.	£	*Cwts.*	£	Cwts.	£
Fish, excluding shell fish	*591,638*	*525,074*	647,826	445,094	*1,291,882*	*1,059,485*	1,240,407	972,133
Shell fish	—	*24,065*	—	18,415	—	*46,045*	—	38,343
Total Value ...	—	*549,139*	—	463,509	—	*1,105,530*	—	1,010,476
Scotland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	*396,523*	*167,728*	438,452	151,459	*775,486*	*323,506*	706,354	293,596
Shell fish	—	*4,967*	—	5,735	—	*9,511*	—	10,341
Total Value ...	—	*172,695*	—	157,194	—	*333,017*	—	303,937
Ireland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	*21,234*	*10,937*	62,472	17,681	*64,552*	*30,666*	144,606	47,524
Shell fish	—	*440*	—	644	—	*926*	—	1,243
Total Value ...	—	*11,377*	—	18,325	—	*31,592*	—	48,767

NOTE.—All the above figures are subject to correction in the annual returns.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton **imported** into the United Kingdom during the week ended 11th March, 1909, was 95,076 (including 175 bales British West Indian, 318 bales British West African, and 96 bales foreign East African), and the number imported during the ten weeks ended the 11th March was 1,544,322 (including 1,776 bales British West Indian, 765 bales British West African, 2,056 bales British East African, and 278 bales foreign East African). The number of bales **exported** during the week ended the 11th March was 8,525, and during the ten weeks, 69,833.

For further details see p. 541.

NEW ZEALAND.

Possibilities of Trade with the West Coast Ports of the United Kingdom.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of a report on the possibilities of trade between New Zealand and the West Coast ports of the United Kingdom, which has been laid before the New Zealand House of Representatives. The report may be seen by British traders interested, on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

CYPRUS.

Registration of Trade Marks.

A supplement to the "Cyprus Gazette" of 19th February publishes the text of a Bill to provide for the registration of trade marks in Cyprus. The "Gazette" may be seen by British traders interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

GERMANY.

Sugar Production

According to statistics published in the "Reichsanzeiger," the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from 1st September, 1908, to the end of February last, being the first six months of the 1908-9 sugar campaign, was 1,802,083 metric tons, as compared with 1,817,183 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1907-8. The quantity of refined sugar produced decreased from 909,612 metric tons during the six months September, 1907, to February, 1908, to 901,719 metric tons during the six months September, 1908, to February, 1909.

The total quantity of beets used during the first half of the present campaign was 11,815,318 metric tons, as compared with

Miscellaneous.

13,482,750 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1907-8.

The total output of sugar (raw and refined) during the period September, 1908, to February, 1909, expressed in terms of raw sugar, was 1,980,529 metric tons, as compared with 2,027,707 metric tons, the figure arrived at a year ago for the corresponding months of 1907-8.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Export of Hungarian Flour.

H.M. Legation at Budapest report that figures published by the Hungarian Statistical Office with regard to the export of flour in 1908 show a considerable diminution in comparison with that of 1907. The figures are as follows :—

—	1907.	1908.	Decrease.
	Metercentners.	Metercentners.	Metercentners.
Wheat flour	7,370,879	6,174,241	1,196,638
Flour for animals	682,407	592,336	90,071
Bran (wheat and oats) ...	1,150,469	431,838	718,631

There was a decrease of 40 per cent. in the total exports to foreign countries. The money value of this decrease is stated to amount to eight million kronen (about 333,000*l.*).

ROUMANIA.

Proposed Registry of Roumanian Traders.

H.M. Consul at Bucharest (Mr. O. Wardrop) reports an announcement in the "Univers" of the 7th March to the effect that at a meeting of the Jassy Chamber of Commerce, held on 5th March, the following Resolutions were agreed upon :—

1. The Jassy Chamber of Commerce shall apply to the Ministry of Commerce with a view to the establishment at every Chamber of Commerce in Roumania of a judicial-commercial set of pigeon holes from which the exact standing, assets and liabilities of all the traders within the district of each Chamber of Commerce may be apparent.

2. The Ministry shall be requested to control the employés of commercial agents, and shall not permit them to work in future without the approval of the Chambers of Commerce.

3. The Ministry shall limit by law the credit of traders, the maximum to be three or four times the initial capital.

4. Traders shall be obliged to declare their initial capital to the Chambers of Commerce.

5. A circular shall be sent to all Chambers of Commerce abroad announcing that the Jassy Chamber of Commerce is willing to give every kind of information regarding Roumanian traders on application from foreign traders.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the week and 10 weeks ended 11th March, 1909 :—

	Week ended 11th March, 1909.	10 Weeks ended 11th March, 1909.	Week ended 11th March, 1909.	10 Weeks ended 11th March, 1909.
	IMPORTS. (Bales.)		EXPORTS. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	80,218	1,337,301	4,325	49,126
Brazilian	—	5,731	333	1,203
East Indian	2,444	25,469	1,001	10,043
Egyptian	10,415	161,469	2,850	8,672
Miscellaneous	1,999*	14,352†	16	789
Total	95,076	1,544,322	8,525	69,833

* Including 175 bales British West Indian, 318 bales British West African and 96 bales foreign East African.

† Including 1,776 bales British West Indian, 765 bales British West African, 2,056 bales British East African and 278 bales foreign East African.

NOTE.—Cotton "in transit" or "for transhipment under bond," *if described as such in the ships' reports*, is not included in this return.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 13th March, 1909, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 13th March, 1909	35	8	28	4	18	2
Corresponding week in—						
1902	27	1	26	4	20	6
1903	25	1	22	9	16	10
1904	28	6	22	9	16	7
1905	30	10	24	11	16	10
1906	28	5	24	8	18	10
1907	26	10	24	2	18	0
1908	31	3	26	0	17	10

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 13th March, 1909, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 13th March, 1909.	*Corresponding Week in 1908.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows and calves	Number	3,152	*7,352*
Sheep and lambs	"	—	*2,300*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	386	*239*
Fresh meat :—			
Beef (including refrigerated and frozen)	Cwts.	85,755	*115,167*
Mutton " " "	"	44,416	*52,498*
Pork " " "	"	10,370	*12,177*
Meat unenumerated, fresh (including refrigerated and frozen)	"	15,137	*17,020*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	113 973	*131,878*
Beef	"	3,098	*3,066*
Hams	"	25,108	*33,564*
Pork	"	6,301	*4.365*
Meat, unenumerated, salted	"	1,666	*1,526*
" preserved otherwise than by salting (including tinned and canned)	"	7,511	*6,360*
Diary Produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	87,451	*89,962*
Margarine	"	15,912	*14,489*
Cheese	"	42,529	*40,680*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	*30*
" cream	"	82	*115*
" condensed	"	19,970	*19,915*
" preserved, other kinds	"	156	*467*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	240,537	*318,673*
Poultry	Value £	23,277	*37,354*
Game	"	2,029	*2,395*
Rabbits, dead (fresh and frozen)	Cwts.	4,372	*4,270*
Lard	"	60,037	*52,309*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2,523,400	*2,630,600*
Wheat meal and flour	"	132,300	*367,300*
Barley	"	267,000	*117,100*
Oats	"	211,800	*452,600*
Peas	"	19,240	*15,760*
Beans	"	6,310	*9,790*
Maize or Indian corn	"	406,800	*802,200*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	44,399	*85,621*
Apricots and peaches	"	54	—
Bananas	Bunches.	129,518	*91,981*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	506	*1,105*
Lemons	"	10,300	*31,765*
Oranges	"	199,053	*269,338*
Pears	"	1,017	*570*
Plums	"	146	*48*
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	1,516	*1,414*
Hay	Tons.	899	*693*
Straw	"	496	*490*
Moss litter	"	1,275	*1,321*
Hops	Cwts.	3,193	*12,964*
Locust beans	"	2,560	*5,023*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	55,097	*131,434*
Potatoes	Cwts.	10,414	*114,962*
Tomatoes	"	18,426	*11,591*
Unenumerated	Value £	11,390	*7,205*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	2,875	*2,984*
" preserved by canning	"	3,851	*4,519*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1909, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 4*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that two volumes and a Supplement of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1907 have been issued, and may be purchased at any of the addresses enumerated above at a cost of 5*s.* 7*d.* for the first volume, 3*s.* 4*d.* for the second volume, and 3*s.* 10*d.* for the supplement. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives in the first volume abstract tables for the years 1903-1907, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), in the second volume details as to Customs revenue, transhipments and articles in bond, with particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country and British possession, and of the trade at each port of the United Kingdom, and in the Supplement abstract and detailed tables showing countries of *consignment* of imports and countries of *ultimate destination* of exports.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the March issue:—State of the Labour Market in February; Cost of Living in French Towns; Royal Commission on the Poor Laws; Railway Conciliation Boards; Amendment of Law relating to Employment of Women and Children in Germany; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

The following report has been issued by the Colonial Office during the past week:—

595. Basutoland, 1907-8

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Cost of Living in French Towns. Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into Working-class Rents, Housing, and Retail Prices, together with the Rates of Wages in certain occupations in the Principal Industrial Towns of France—with an Introductory Memorandum and a Comparison of Conditions in France and the United Kingdom. [*Cd.* 4,512]. *Price* 4*s.* 1*d.*

This report is the third of a series containing the results of an investigation undertaken by the Board of Trade into certain matters affecting the conditions of the working-classes in industrial towns. It relates to certain of the principal towns of France, and contains information comparable, so far as possible, with that given for the United Kingdom in the Report on the Cost of Living of the Working-classes (Cd. 3,864) issued by the Board in January, 1908, and for Germany in the Report on the Cost of Living in German Towns (Cd. 4,032), issued in April, 1908. The statistical material respecting prices, wages, and hours of labour collected for France relates to the same date (October, 1905) as that obtained for the other two countries, though some information as to conditions at a later date is given in this as in previous cases.

The main subjects of investigation were the principal types of housing for the industrial population, the customary standards of accommodation, and the rents commonly paid by working-class tenants; the kinds of food usually consumed by working-class families, and the prices most generally paid; and wages and hours of labour in the principal occupations in each town. In order to arrive at some estimate of the standard of living prevalent among the French industrial classes, over 5,600 budgets showing the expenditure on food by working-class families in a normal week, and representative of numerous occupations and of all grades of working-class incomes, were obtained from the various towns, and are analysed in the present volume.

Railway Conciliation Boards. Report to the Board of Trade upon matters connected with the Establishment and Working of Railway Conciliation Boards, set up in accordance with the Agreement of 6th November, 1907. *Cd.* 4534. *Price* 6*d.*

Government Publications.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since the 1st January, 1909, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in Italic type.

No.	Place.	Price	No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—			**ASIA—**	
	Italy:			**Japan:**	
673	*Agriculture of Southern Italy*	2*d.*	*672*	*Raw Silk Industry and Habutae (Japanese Manufactured Silk)*	3*d.*
	Portugal:		*674*	*Matting Industry*	1½*d.*
4181	Goa, 1907	1*d.*	*675*	*Sugar Industry of South Formosa, 1908*	1½*d.*
	Switzerland:			**Persia:**	
4178	Budget, 1909	1*d.*	4179	Bushire, 1907–8	4*d.*
				WEST INDIES—	
			4180	Cuba, 1907	1½*d.*

Treaty Series.

The following number of the Treaty Series, issued by the Foreign Office since 1st January, 1909, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	Turkey.	
1	Protocol between the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Turkey respecting Turkish Customs Duties	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions, issued since 1st January, 1909, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.:—

No.	Place.	Price.
	Annual—	
594	Northern Nigeria, 1907–8	11*d.*
595	Basutoland, 1907–8	3*d.*
	Miscellaneous—	
57	Uganda: Report by the Governor on a Tour through the Eastern Province	3½*d.*

Confidential Information.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade has for several years been in the habit of forwarding to Chambers of Commerce for the confidential use of their members, but not for publication, information (chiefly as to openings abroad for British trade) to which it has appeared desirable in the interests of British trade to draw attention confidentially. The plan met with general approval, and in order to attain more fully the purpose of the Board, namely, to reach all British manufacturers or traders interested, it was decided, on the recommendation of the Commercial Intelligence Committee, to supplement the above-mentioned system by opening at the Commercial Intelligence Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., a Register of British firms who might desire to receive confidential information relative to their respective trades. The Register was opened in January, 1907, and a considerable number of British firms have since applied and had their names entered. Other British firms desiring to have their names entered on this Register should fill up and forward to the Commercial Intelligence Branch a form of application, copies of which may be obtained at the offices of the Branch.

The admission to the Register, as well as the retention upon it, of any firm is at the discretion of the Board of Trade.

No charge is made for information supplied, but every firm admitted to the Register is required to become a subscriber to the "Board of Trade Journal" (and to register as such with the sale agents, Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.), in order to ensure that those who are desirous of receiving such confidential information should first be in possession of all the official information relating to their particular trade which is published in that Journal. The annual subscription to the Journal, including postage, is 15*s.* 2*d.*

The present scheme is provisional and experimental, and its continuance and future development will depend on the results of experience.

NOTE.—Apart from the special Register, the Branch is always ready to answer, as far as possible, enquiries on specific questions in the interest of British trade.

Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and classified in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of Firms Abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c.

There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from India, the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of Canada and Queensland have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see below).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

All communications intended for the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be addressed to: *The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*

Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have opened an office at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch." A Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications regarding Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Australia.—The Commonwealth of Australia have offices at 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Enquiries may be made there as to Customs requirements, the Commonwealth Tariff, marking and description of goods, trade marks, patents and designs. Letters should be addressed to "The Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia."

COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES—*continued.*

New Zealand.—A Commercial Department is established at the Office of the High Commissioner, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W., where information respecting the agricultural, pastoral, mining and other resources of the Dominion, and particulars concerning trade and industries, tariff regulations and commercial statistics can be obtained. Permanent exhibits of New Zealand products are maintained for public inspection both at the Imperial Institute and the Crystal Palace.

Queensland.—The Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters relating to Queensland. Specimens of products representative of the pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries of Queensland are on view.

Victoria.—The Government of Victoria (Australia) have an extensive and varied collection of products of the State on view at the Show Room of their London Offices (142, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.). Lists of the Exporters of the State, with their Agents in the United Kingdom, and full particulars relating to the trade, prospects, &c., of the State, can be obtained upon application to the Agent-General for Victoria, at the above address.

New South Wales.—With a view to facilitating the acquiring of information regarding the State's products, the New South Wales Government have a commercial branch attached to the Agent-General's Department at 123-125, Cannon Street, E.C. A great variety of specimens is on view—typical of the mineral, agricultural and other products of the country. Full information concerning the Colony is given gratis to all applicants.

South Australia.—The Government of South Australia have established a Produce Department at the offices of the Agent General, Threadneedle House, 28, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., where specimens of every description of South Australian produce are now displayed. This Department will supply, free of cost, full information regarding the exports from South Australia of all sorts of produce.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have offices at 98, Victoria Street, S.W., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency, under the superintendence of the Trades Commissioner, who supplies free information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as agricultural products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, &c., &c.

Natal.—The Government of Natal have established a Commercial Agency for that Colony at 26, Victoria Street, S.W., under the direction of the Agent-General. The Commercial Agent will supply, gratis, information on trade and industrial subjects connected with the Colony, commercial statistics, tariffs, railway rates, shipping freights, &c. Specimens of certain descriptions of Natal produce are on view.